

Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2010

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Margaret Young, Mary Lou McNerney, Theo Loppatto, Pam Szypulski, Gloria Farrar, Jane Fowler, and Pat Rogers.

Excused members: Mary Lou Urquhart

Also present: Monica Fleming of Coastal Point; Lindsey Shallcross, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from the February 19, 2010 Meeting

Ms. Loppatto made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Fowler seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Announcements

Ms. Olmstead reported the following announcements:

- Michael Morgan contacted her in regards to writing a book on the history of Bethany Beach. He would like to use historical photographs of Bethany Beach that belong to CHAC.
- Claudia Thane of Sea Colony is writing an article for the Bethany Beach Museum to be included in Sea Colony's Annual Publication of area attractions.

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that this could increase the publicity of the Town's Museum.

Ms. Olmstead asked Ms. Thane to mention in the article the hours that the museum is open.

- Jennifer Read contacted Ms. Olmstead after reading an article in the newspaper on the Loop Canal. She sent in old photographs of Bethany Beach to CHAC.

Feedback regarding Oral History Project

- Ms. Loppatto called Jane Errett Vincinte and spoke with her sister, who said that Jane will be back next week. The Committee discussed interviewing Jane's sister also, and contemplated the idea to interview them both at the same time. The Ehrett family were one of the families in the founding of our town.
- Ms. Farrar said Mr. Disney interviewed with Ron Steen and it went well.

Ms. Olmstead said that the people on the interview list that haven't been in contact yet will most likely be getting back to Town soon for the summer season.

Once ten people have been interviewed, Mr. Disney is going to make a preview of the Oral History Project, which CHAC can view and offer comments and suggestions.

Loop Canal Anniversary Program

Ms. Young provided the information that she contacted Bill Addy and spoke with him about the Loop Canal Centennial. He is very interested in this project.

The Committee discussed the following ideas to include in the Loop Canal Anniversary celebration:

- Having a Loop Canal Centennial Banner made.
- Taking excerpts from the BBLA brochure and turn it into a one-page flyer to hand out.
- Having kayakers come in to the dock. However, this idea may not be possible, depending on what the tide is like.
- Ms. Farrar suggested keeping the celebration at the Loop Canal instead of going back to the Town Office for refreshments. The Committee conversed ideas of where to hold the celebration and how to go about serving refreshments. They decided that it should take place at the Loop Canal and that a certain amount of refreshments (lemonade and cookies) should be ordered and given out on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- Ms. Fowler mentioned that she has stories on how the Loop Canal was used in the 1960's and 1970's, so Ms. Olmstead suggested that it would be a good idea for her to have her stories written or record her telling them.
- Ms. Farrar proposed that CHAC could have a Loop Canal float in the Fourth of July Parade. The Committee collaborated ideas together and discussed having the float resemble the Allie May, which was a shallow water boat that traveled through the Loop Canal to Bethany Beach.

Ms. Olmstead noted that when the time gets closer, they will make more specific arrangements. She is going to bring forth the Loop Canal Centennial ideas to the Town Council for approval.

Review Letter to Mayor of Périers, France Regarding Twinning

Ms. Olmstead stated that she wrote a letter to the Mayor of Périers, France that she will present to the Town Council at the Council meeting on Friday, March 19, 2010. The Committee reviewed the letter, and agreed that it can be presented to the Council as written.

Ms. Szypulski questioned if school students are encouraged to be pen pals when two cities are twinned. Ms. Olmstead advised that they can encourage it in the future and send a letter of interest.

Ms. Olmstead mentioned that she sent the letter to Ms. Cowell, who is going have her French teacher translate it into French. The letter is going to be sent in both English and French.

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged to the Committee members that Ms. Cowell provided magazines to CHAC that contain articles on Périers, France that they can read.

Discussion and Possible Vote Regarding Arcadia Books Project

Ms. Olmstead reported that she spoke on the phone with Elizabeth Bray. Ms. Bray sent her a packet of books that Arcadia published for other towns.

Ms. Bray suggested that the Town of Bethany Beach create a book of either collaborated post cards or historical images/photographs of the Town. This will be a comprehensive project, since at least 200 post cards or images need to be provided along with text for each visual.

Ms. Young questioned if the combination of postcards and photos can be used. Ms Olmstead said that Arcadia has two separate series, one for only postcards and one for only images, but she will clarify with Ms. Bray on whether they can combine them together.

Ms. Olmstead said one the benefits of this project would be that the books could be sold in the museum, and CHAC would receive a percentage of the profit.

The Committee discussed ideas on the type of person who can write the book. Ms. Olmstead suggested that they will discuss it further at the next meeting.

Ms. Olmstead explained the different steps that need to be accomplished if the Committee decides to go forth with this project. They are as follows:

- 1.) Submit a proposal to Arcadia Publishing: The proposal should be several pages.
- 2.) The proposal is or isn't approved.
- 3.) Begin gathering data: Either postcards or photographs.
- 4.) Submit to Arcadia a deadline date in which the book will be completed.

Ms. Loppatto suggested that they contact other towns who had a book published by Arcadia to see how they went about completing the process. Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that this is a good idea.

Ms. Bray recommended that the book should be approximately 128 pages, with three to ten chapters.

The Committee discussed ways to obtain at least 200 post cards or photographs. They decided to put an advertisement on the Town's website for residents to send in photographs of Bethany Beach, without any date or topic restrictions for the time being.

Overall, the Committee feels that this is a project they can pursue. The books already completed by other towns that were published by Arcadia are very well done. Also, this book would be available in the Town's museum and in different vendors, instead of only in book stores.

Possible Museum Projects

As a follow up from previous discussion among the Committee members regarding what items to sell in the museum, Ms. Olmstead suggested that they could sell note cards depicting the early homes in Bethany Beach.

Ms. Szypulski presented a note card that she created. The Committee expressed that they were very well done.

The Committee developed the following ideas for the museum:

- Ms. Farrar said that Ocean View is selling Wanda Powell's sketches. Ms. Szypulski offered to research and get information on the sketches.
- Ms. Olmstead suggested discussing the committee's view on evening events for the next year at a future meeting.

Ideas for the Future

- Find volunteers to be docents in the museum.
- Have the original giant wall map printed so that people can buy a copy and frame it.
- Ms. Szypulski is going to try to get an estimated price on the note cards.
- Ms. Loppatto suggested asking local merchants/shops to sell the note cards if they decide to print them.

Ms. Olmstead expressed her appreciation to the Committee members for sharing all of their helpful ideas.

Adjourn

Ms. Fowler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Szypulski, the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lindsey Shallcross, Admin. Secretary